**Terms of Reference for Africa RISING Communications and Knowledge Sharing Specialist**

Africa RISING (Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation) was coined in early 2012 as the collective name for three linked sustainable intensification (SI) projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the United States government-wide Feed the Future initiative. Today, the Program comprises five component projects focusing on the sustainable intensification (SI) of key agricultural production systems in sub-Saharan Africa:

* Africa RISING in East and Southern Africa operating in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia and managed by the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA);
* Africa RISING in the Ethiopian Highlands managed by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI);
* Africa RISING in West Africa operating in Ghana and Mali and also managed IITA.
* Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of these three regional projects is managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI);
* A smaller program-level communications project is managed by ILRI on behalf of the partners.

Through action research and development partnerships, the Program aims to create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

After a five-year first phase (2011-2016), the program is now embarking on a second phase (2016 – 2021) with a greater focus on scaling out and applying the results of research. Among other things, this calls for greater program-wide efforts and engagement to harness to collective knowledge of the partners as well as innovative ways to make communications work to achieve the Program’s ambitious targets.

To make this happen, the Program’s partners have decided to create a full-time communications and knowledge sharing position to service the needs of the projects. This position will be recruited by ILRI on behalf of the partners. The International Livestock Research Institute (www.ilri.org) works to improve food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for better and more sustainable use of livestock. ILRI is a CGIAR research centre, a global research partnership of 15 centres working with many partners for a food-secure future. It works through a network of regional and country offices and projects in East, South and Southeast Asia, Central, East, Southern and West Africa, and in Central America.

**Setting**

The Africa RISING Communications and Knowledge Sharing Specialist will work across and support the component projects, each of which has its own dedicated communications staff. It will especially seek to generate and draw value from the collective program-wide activities, supporting learning and exchange, developing specialist strategic partnerships, and helping to guide and channel knowledge generated through the program for widest application and use.

**Responsibilities**

* Give strategic leadership to communications and knowledge sharing across the Program
* Design and facilitate innovative communications support to help achieve the Program’s scaling and dissemination objectives
* Produce synthetic knowledge and communications products for the Program as a whole
* Link up with strategic partners and supporting effective engagement
* Lead program-level external communications and awareness , media relations, etc
* Act as a communications point of contact for USAID; ensuring that Program and project outputs reach vital USAID audiences
* Convene and support Program-level learning and science events
* Support and guide Program-level communities of practice
* Work with the various communications people in the projects to ensure consistent and complementary approaches and products
* Support other program-level activities and engagements as needed.
* Maintain close links with the wider Communications and Knowledge Management groups of the partners, and the donor, to ensure that all communications activities align with Feed the Future, USAID, CGIAR goals and requirements.
* Participate in a Community of Practice of all Communication Specialists in ILRI

**Requirements**

* To de defined

**Position level:** Internationally-recruited; equivalent to Scientist/Research level 1 depending on skills and experience.

**Post location:** The position will be based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Could be in Tanzania

**Duration:** 3 years with the possibility of renewal contingent upon individual performance and funding.

**Terms of appointment:** ILRI offers a competitive international salary and benefits package which includes 15% Pension, Medical insurance, Life insurance and allowances for: Education, Housing, Relocation, Home leave, Annual holiday entitlement of 30 days + public holidays.

\*Benefits and salary are tax free subject to compliance with tax regulations of country of citizenship.